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ABSTRACT

This consumer education resource inventory contains information about the following resources available in the consumer education field: clearinghouses; data bases; resource centers; private organizations and associations; and federal, state, and local agencies and offices. Section 1 contains program descriptions of seven clearinghouses. Each description includes a brief introduction as well as information on the audience served by the clearinghouse, content and method of dissemination, cost of the service, contact person, and available services (such as technical assistance and training services). Section 2, which deals with data bases, consists of a brief preface (discussing data base use and accessibility and how to determine if a data base covers a desired subject area) and descriptions of twenty-six data bases. Topics in each description are the same as those covered in the section on clearinghouses. Section 3 contains similar descriptions of five resource centers. Program descriptions of twenty-one private organizations are provided in section 4. Section 5 presents descriptions of the operations of three types of state and local agency offices, and section 6 includes similar descriptions of two types of federal agencies and offices. (MN)

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ED199545

CONSUMER EDUCATION RESOURCE INVENTORY

A Reference Manual for Consumer Educators

February 1980

CE028476

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

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CERN Consumer Education Resource Network

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 800
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209
(703) 522-4616

FOREWORD

One often hears our current times described as the age of the "information explosion." Today as never before consumer educators are faced with a dilemma--there is a vast amount of consumer education material and information available, yet it is often extremely difficult to locate it.

The Consumer Education Resource Network (CERN), funded by the Office of Consumers' Education, USOE/HEW, and operated by InterAmerica Research Associates, Inc., was created to alleviate this problem by disseminating information on materials, programs, and activities.

Perhaps because of varied backgrounds, consumer educators are often unaware of the vast array of useful resources available. CERN is committed to using these existing resources to meet the needs of consumer educators.

The *Consumer Education Resource Inventory* is the first attempt to bring together, in one reference tool, information about the variety of resources available in the consumer education field. The *Inventory* is an ongoing effort of CERN, leading to the provision of a comprehensive reference tool which will be useful to all consumer educators. Initially included in the *Inventory* is information about clearinghouses, data bases, resource centers, private organizations and associations, and federal, state, and local agencies and offices. Periodic additions will expand the contents of these sections and add new sections. The *Inventory* will evolve as a reflection of consumer education needs. We hope that you find the contents useful, and we welcome your suggestions for future inclusions.

L. Gayle Royer
CERN Director

CERN Consumer Education Resource Network

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 800
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209
(703) 522-4616

Dear Readers:

We are pleased to send you a copy of the *Consumer Education Resource Inventory* and hope it will be useful to you.

For your convenience we have chosen to limit each group description to one or two pages. To ensure that the information provided is accurate and current, we sent draft descriptions to each of the groups included in the *Inventory* and have incorporated their suggestions and corrections.

If you would like additional copies, or if you know someone else who would like to receive this publication, complete the form below and return it to CERN. The price per copy is $10.00.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the *Inventory*.

Cordially,

Karen L. Cook

Karen L. Cook
Materials Development Coordinator

ORDER FORM - CONSUMER EDUCATION RESOURCE INVENTORY

Please make check or money order payable
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CLEARINGHOUSE FOR APPLIED PERFORMANCE TESTING (CAPT)

INTRODUCTION

CAPT, sponsored by the National Institute of Education, provides access to applied performance testing devices, methods, and information. Applied performance tests, designed to measure performance in a real or simulated situation, are always designed to be as similar to real life situations as possible. Abstracts of materials in the CAPT collection can be found in the Annotated Bibliography on Applied Performance Testing and hard copies of the documents can be ordered.

AUDIENCE

CAPT serves federal, state, and local agencies; school counselors; and researchers in educational measurement and assessment.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CAPT collects and disseminates applied performance tests and information about them, provides information concerning minimum competency testing, and develops instructional materials and criteria for evaluating applied performance test instruments and procedures. CAPT publications include: CAPT Newsletter, CAPT Brochure, Annotated Bibliography on Applied Performance Testing, and Annotated Bibliography on Minimum Competency Testing. The Clearinghouse also sponsors annual conferences on topics related to applied performance testing.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance in developing and using applied performance tests is available on an individual contract basis.

COST OF USING SERVICE

CAPT charges $0.10 per page for any document which they reproduce. They also issue annual proceedings which cost $3.00 per copy. All bibliographies are free, as is the newsletter.

CONTACT

Beverly L. Anderson, Director
Clearinghouse for Applied Performance Testing
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
710 Southwest Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97204 (503)248-6863

September 1979

CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE HANDICAPPED

INTRODUCTION

Clearinghouse on the Handicapped was established by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1974 to improve the lives of the handicapped through responding to inquiries and providing resource information.

AUDIENCE

The Clearinghouse provides information services for handicapped individuals, service organizations, and anyone else interested in the handicapped.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Clearinghouse on the Handicapped provides information on all aspects of the handicapped field. The Clearinghouse answers questions directly and also refers inquirers to the appropriate source when further information is necessary. Publications include tools for the information provider such as the Directory of National Information Sources on Handicapping Conditions, Federal Assistance for Programs Serving the Handicapped, and Pocket Guide to Federal Help for the Disabled Person.

COST OF USING SERVICE

All services are provided free of charge.

CONTACT

Helga Roth, Chief
Clearinghouse on the Handicapped
Office for Handicapped Individuals
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 338D
Washington, D.C. 20201 (202)245-1961

September 1979

CLEARINGHOUSE - RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS OF ADULTS (CREA)

INTRODUCTION

CREA is designed to provide resources and information about resources to New York State educators of adults to be used in their professional development.

AUDIENCE

CREA's clients are educators of adults in New York. CREA will respond to information requests from out-of-state educators, but will not loan materials.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Established in 1975 by the Division of Continuing Education, New York State Education Department, CREA collects and disseminates both print and nonprint materials and information about projects for educators of adults. CREA mails these materials to New York State educators on a two-week loan basis. Information provided is primarily the author, title, abstract, CREA call number, and descriptors of the material. CREA also provides access to videotapes through cable TV; issues the Federal Register Review - a weekly review of information found in the Federal Register that would be of interest to educators of adults; and issues a monthly newsletter of recent additions to the collection. In addition, CREA has developed bibliographies and other publications which can be used by educators.

TRAINING SERVICE

CREA staff will provide and/or assist with training services to educators of adults - primarily in the area of staff development.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Staff are available for consultation.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

CREA has developed and assisted with the development of training materials - for a listing, contact CREA.

COST OF USING SERVICE

All of CREA's services are free except for the return postage on loaned materials.

CONTACT

Dr. William Rivera, Program Director
CREA
224 Huntington Hall - Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13210 (315)423-3034

September 1979

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

INTRODUCTION

ERIC is a national education information system that provides access to literature on topics ranging from technical research to new media and exemplary programs. The ERIC network is composed of 16 Clearinghouses, each specializing in a different subject area.

AUDIENCE

The ERIC system offers potential for consumer education, primarily because many of those people who are likely to want consumer education information already are accustomed to using the system. ERIC provides access to literature in many areas of education, including consumer education. The ERIC system itself--available through state library systems, institutions of higher education, state education agencies, many intermediate education service agencies, and some large local school districts--can serve any educator or consumer advocate.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

A person seeking information may make either a manual or a computerized search of ERIC resources. To search manually, the user first consults the Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors, which lists terms used to index and enter documents into the ERIC system.

Having found relevant descriptors, the user looks in the subject index of two ERIC publications: (1) Resources in Education, a monthly abstract journal listing and/or describing recently completed research reports, outstanding programs, and other documents of educational significance; and (2) Current Index to Journals in Education, a monthly guide to periodical literature covering more than 700 major educational and education-related publications and containing a main entry section with annotations.

The user then locates in the resume section of each publication the abstract of the document or the annotation of the periodical article tentatively identified as useful.

The full text of documents, on microfiche or in hard copy, may be obtained through either the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (documents cited in Resources in Education) or a reprint service from University Microfilms International (articles from journals covered in the Current Index to Journals in Education). Or the user can consult the Directory of ERIC Microfiche Collections for a list of organizations having ERIC collections.

A computerized search can be conducted through one of the ERIC Clearinghouses, or through an organization listed in the publication, Survey of ERIC Data Base Search Services.

ERIC collects documents of many kinds--published and unpublished reports of research, project and technical reports, speeches and unpublished manuscripts, books, professional journal articles, conference proceedings, bibliographies, and curriculum-related materials.

COST OF USING SERVICES

Most libraries do not charge for use of ERIC microfiche collections. There is usually a nominal charge for computer searches, microfiche reproduction, and hard copy reproduction from microfiche. These charges are listed in the Directory of ERIC Microfiche Collections and the Directory of ERIC Search Services.

CONTACT

ERIC
National Institute of Education
Washington, D.C. 20208 (202)254-7934

September 1979

ERIC NETWORK COMPONENTS

There are currently sixteen (16) ERIC Clearinghouses, each responsible for a major area in the field of education. Clearinghouses acquire, select, catalogue, abstract, and index the documents announced in Resources in Education (RIE). They also prepare interpretive summaries and annotated bibliographies dealing with high-interest topics and based on the documents analyzed for RIE; these information analysis products are also announced in Resources in Education.

ERIC Clearinghouses:

ADULT, CAREER, AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
Ohio State University
1960 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210 (614)486-3655

COUNSELING AND PERSONNEL SERVICES
University of Michigan
School of Education Building, Room 2108
East University and South University Streets
Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (313)764-9492

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403 (503)686-5043

ELEMENTARY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
University of Illinois
College of Education
Urbana, IL 61801 (217)333-1386

HANDICAPPED AND GIFTED CHILDREN
Council for Exceptional Children
1920 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091 (703)620-3660

HIGHER EDUCATION
George Washington University
One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 630
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)296-2597

INFORMATION RESOURCES
Syracuse University
School of Education
Syracuse, NY 13210 (315)423-3640

JUNIOR COLLEGES
University of California at Los Angeles
Powell Library, Room 96
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213)825-3931

LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
Center for Applied Linguistics
1611 North Kent Street
Arlington, VA 22209 (703)528-4312

READING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
National Council of Teachers of English
1111 Kenyon Road
Urban, IL 61801 (217)328-3870

RURAL EDUCATION AND SMALL SCHOOLS
New Mexico State University
Box 3 AP
Las Cruces, NM 88003 (505)646-2623

SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Ohio State University
1200 Chambers Road, Third Floor
Columbus, OH 43212 (614)422-6717

SOCIAL STUDIES/SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
Social Science Education Consortium, Inc.
855 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302 (303)492-8434

TEACHER EDUCATION
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 616
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)293-7280

TESTS, MEASUREMENT, AND EVALUATION
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08541 (609)921-9000

URBAN EDUCATION
Teachers College
Columbia University
Box 40
New York, NY 10027 (212)678-3437

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER
(Central ERIC)
National Institute of Education
Washington, D.C. 20208 (202)254-7934

ERIC PROCESSING & REFERENCE FACILITY
4833 Rugby Avenue, Suite 303
Bethesda, MD 20014 (301)656-9723

ERIC DOCUMENT REPRODUCTION SERVICE
P.O. Box 190
Arlington, VA 22210 (703)841-1212

NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLEARINGHOUSE

INTRODUCTION

The National Community Education Clearinghouse is supported by a contract with the National Community Education Association through a grant with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The Clearinghouse operates a free referral service for information and materials in the field of community education. This involves collecting and organizing materials for the data base, disseminating documents, and analyzing issues in community education. Information is retrieved in the form of an abstract or a full citation.

AUDIENCE

The National Community Education Clearinghouse serves community educators, administrators, recreational and cultural agency personnel, and community developers.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The Clearinghouse views community education as those programs in which public buildings are used as community centers to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and other community services. The Clearinghouse analyzes books, pamphlets, journal articles, unpublished reports, legislation, and audiovisual materials.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Clearinghouse services are free of charge.

CONTACT

Larry Reitz
National Community Education Clearinghouse
Informatics, Inc.
6011 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20852

toll free (continental U.S.) (800)638-6698
MD residents only (301)770-3000

September 1979

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION (NCBE)

INTRODUCTION

The National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education is sponsored by the Office of Bilingual Education and the National Institute of Education. Established in 1977 to serve those involved in bilingual education, NCBE provides reference and referral services, and free on-line searches. NCBE works closely with the Title VII Bilingual Education National Education Centers.

AUDIENCE

NCBE serve teachers, students, administrators, and anyone interested in bilingual education.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Information provided through the reference and referral services will vary from an abstract to the actual document. Source documents are government documents, documents from the Title VII centers, and relevant documents from other sources. NCBE publications are Guides to Resources in Bilingual Education, a monthly newsletter entitled Forum, and various information analysis products.

COST OF USING SERVICE

All services are provided free of charge with the exception of the information analysis products, which carry a nominal charge to cover the cost of production.

CONTACT

Joel Gomez, Director
National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education
1300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite B2-11
Rosslyn, VA 22209
toll free (800)336-4560
Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (703)522-0710

September 1979

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE (RDx)

INTRODUCTION

The Research and Development Exchange (RDx) is a network of regional educational laboratories and university-based R & D centers working to support state and local school improvement efforts. Initiated by the National Institute of Education (NIE) in 1976, the RDx is part of NIE's Regional Programs. It is composed of seven regional exchanges and four central support services. Each regional exchange delivers services to clients within an identified geographic region. These include providing practitioners with R & D information, resources, technical assistance and staff development to plan and implement school improvement programs.

AUDIENCE

The ultimate audiences for RDx products and services are students, teachers, and principals. Because of the size and complexity of these client groups and the limited resources to serve them, the RDx supports local dissemination and school improvement efforts by working through state and intermediate education agencies and national education associations. Currently, the RDx works primarily through state education agencies' dissemination and school improvement staffs.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The RDx sponsors a quarterly publication, the Educational R & D Report, produced by the Council for Educational Development and Research (CEDaR). The Educational R & D Report presents to a nationwide audience of practitioners in-depth articles and brief summaries of the results of federally funded educational R & D. Each issue includes a regional insert for each regional exchange describing that exchange's current activities and services. In addition, the RDx has conducted seminars that present participants with R & D products and research findings; produced Research Within Reach, a synthesis of current research findings on teaching reading; published lists of resource organizations working on current educational topics; and conducted regional dissemination forums.

TRAINING SERVICES

The RDx has conducted numerous regional and state workshops on topics such as using information systems, conducting needs assessment programs, training field agents, implementing innovations, selecting R & D products, and creating school improvement strategies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The RDx has offered a variety of individualized technical assistance services to state education agency staff responsible for dissemination and school improvement programs. A number of the regional exchanges

have provided assistance in the development of state exemplary practice files and the development of procedures to validate local programs.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Several regional exchanges have developed depositories of R & D products--handbooks and guides for teachers and administrators, teacher training materials, research syntheses. Depository materials are loaned to clients upon request.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Educational R & D Report, designed to acquaint clients with the activities and services of the regional exchanges, is available free of charge from CEDaR, Suite 206, 1518 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202)638-3193. Some RDx services are free; others are available on a cost recovery basis.

CONTACT

Further information about the RDx may be obtained directly from the institutions or through the Council for Educational Development and Research (CEDaR), their national association. Groups or individuals interested in RDx services should contact the regional exchange in their region through their state education agency contact person, usually the staff member responsible for dissemination activities. Clients may also contact the regional exchange director. Each exchange can put clients in touch with the central support services.

Regional Exchanges and Support Services

AEL Regional Exchange
Jack Sanders, Regional Exchange Director
Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Inc.
P.O. Box 1348
Charleston, WV 25325 (304)344-8371

Midwest Regional Exchange
Dane Manis, Regional Exchange Director
CEMREL, Inc.
3120 59th Street
St. Louis, MO 63139 (314)781-2900

McREL Regional Exchange
Linda Sikorski, Regional Exchange Director
Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory
1800 Pontiac Street
Denver, CO 80220 (303)399-9285

Northwest Regional Exchange
Virginia Thompson, Regional Exchange Director
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
710 S.W. Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97204 (503)248-6837

RBS Regional Exchange
Richard McCann, Regional Exchange Director
Research for Better Schools, Inc.
444 North Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123 (215)574-9300

SEDL Regional Exchange
Preston Kronkosky, Regional Exchange Director
Southwest Educational Development Laboratory
211 East Seventh Street
Austin, TX 78701 (512)476-6861

Western Regional Exchange
Roger Scott, Regional Exchange Director
SWRL Educational Research and Development
4665 Lampson Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720 (213)598-7661, ext. 367

Dissemination Support Service
Joseph Pascarelli, DSS Director
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
710 S.W. Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97204 (503)248-6837

Research and Development Interpretation Service
Linda Reed, RDIS Director
CEMREL, Inc.
3120 59th Street
St. Louis, MO 63139 (314)781-2900

Resource and Referral Service
John Peterson, RRS Director
National Center for Research in Vocational Education
Ohio State University
1960 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210 (614)486-3655

System Support Service (SSS)
Stanley Chow, SSS Director
Far West Laboratory for Educational Research
and Development
1855 Folsom Street
San Francisco, CA 94103 (415)565-3179 or 565-3135

September 1979

PREFACE

The data bases described in this section are a source of useful and often untapped resources. Carefully planning the "search strategies" to access them will unlock an almost limitless array of information. When deciding whether to access a particular data base, several important questions should be considered.

Does the data base cover the desired subject area?

Each data base contains information specific to a certain range of topics or drawn from a limited set of sources. A user must carefully select the most appropriate data base for the information sought. The most effective way to do this requires that a user carefully outline the information desired and decide upon:

1) the types of materials needed, i.e., textbooks, research reports, pamphlets, journal articles, magazine articles, curriculum guides, etc.;
2) the specific subject areas required;
3) the general time period for the materials, i.e., only journal articles written between January and June 1979; and
4) any special audiences for which the materials are intended.

The answers to these questions will determine which data bases will be searched. Most importantly, answering these questions carefully will reduce the amount of search time and hence the cost to the user; it will also minimize the retrieval of irrelevant information.

Most data bases publish user's guides and/or thesauri of terms to aid the user in accessing the data base and in defining the information desired.

Is the data base easily accessible?

Most data bases are computerized and thus can be searched "on-line" using a computer terminal. It is not necessary to have one's own terminal in order to make use of a data base; a consumer educator could establish

contact with a group or institution which has such a terminal and has access to the appropriate data base.

There are a number of institutions which have the necessary equipment and expertise. Local, state, and university libraries often have facilities, as do local, intermediate, and state education agencies. A call to one of these sources will reveal whether they are willing to conduct a search of a particular data base. If such an institution cannot be located, the search can be arranged through CERN.

The Directory of ERIC Search Services lists and describes briefly the organizations which are currently providing computerized searches of the ERIC data base. To obtain a free copy, contact the Directory of ERIC Search Services, ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, 4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 303, Bethesda, MD 20014, (301)656-9732.

What are the cost involved?

Most data bases listed in this *Inventory* can be searched through one of the vendors listed; however, one may be asked to pay the cost of the actual search. CERN's experience has shown that a "typical" search usually costs between $10 and $20. (Prices for ERIC searches are listed in the Directory of ERIC Search Services.)

How CERN Can Help

CERN offers a number of services to assist those interested in searching a computerized data base:

- Assuming that one has a terminal or has access to an institution that will conduct the search, CERN can assist by designing a "search strategy" to define the information request, and to decide upon the thesaurus terms to be used.
- If an institution cannot be located to conduct the search, CERN will conduct it as a free service; however, if a free search would place an extraordinary strain on CERN's resources, the user may be asked to assume the cost of search time.

CERN will work with any consumer educator to answer a request for information and/or to discuss alternative means for obtaining data. For assistance, contact:

CERN
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800
Rosslyn, VA 22209
(800)336-0223 toll free
(703)522-4616 collect, if calling from
Washington, D.C., Virginia, Alaska, Hawaii.

ABI/INFORM®

INTRODUCTION

ABI/INFORM contains abstracts of business management periodical literature. Established in 1971, the data base includes 95,000 items. ABI/INFORM can provide on-line searches with complete abstracts on all items and xerographic copies of articles from 1975.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The data base is built from over 400 source publications in business and related fields. The file covers a wide field of subjects including: accounting, banking, business law, data processing, economics, finance, general management, insurance, marketing, personnel, public administration, real estate, and statistics.

The file is updated monthly at a rate of approximately 1,900 citations per month.

TRAINING SERVICES

User meetings are conducted on request, schedule permitting, for groups of 15 or more. Meetings cover editorial policy, indexing, and search techniques.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Inquiries are welcomed by mail or telephone.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

User Aid, available free on request, contains a journals list, data base description, and sample searches. User Guide, containing these features plus the 11,000 term controlled vocabulary, is available for $27.50.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The ABI/INFORM data base is accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT), Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Betty Unruh
Data Courier, Inc.
620 South 5th Street
Louisville, KY 40202

(502)582-4111 or toll free (800)626-2823

September 1979

ABSTRACTS OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS/ ABSTRACTS OF RESEARCH MATERIALS (AIM/ARM)

INTRODUCTION

AIM/ARM, operated by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, contains approximately 17,500 items. AIM/ARM uses the ERIC thesaurus terms to classify and search its data base.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

AIM/ARM contains instructional materials developed by local education agencies (LEAs), state education agencies (SEAs), curriculum development laboratories, and industrial organizations as well as research from the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Labor, Office of Economic Opportunity, and private foundations.

Materials cover a wide range of topics in vocational and technical education, including: business and office education, consumer education, distributive education, and home economics education.

AIM/ARM ceased adding new information to its data base in December 1976. Beginning in 1977, those materials that would have been in AIM/ARM have been included in the ERIC data base. The AIM/ARM bimonthly publication, Resources in Vocational Education, announces instructional and research materials currently in the data base and those under development.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The AIM/ARM data base is accessible through the commercial vendor, Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Patricia Arthur
The National Center for Research in Vocational Education
The Ohio State University
1960 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210 (614)486-3655

September 1979

AGRICULTURE ON-LINE ACCESS (AGRICOLA)

INTRODUCTION

Agricola represents the actual holdings of the National Agricultural Library and consists of approximately 1,000,000 items. Agricola is searchable in free text using Library of Congress subject headings. Copies of documents are available.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Agricola contains the world's literature on agriculture and related subjects, including: agricultural economics and administration, consumer protection, environmental pollution, food and human nutrition, and home economics.

The file contains U.S. Government reports, documents from the Arid Land Resources Bibliography, Health Bibliography, and Canadian Agriculture Cooperative from Agriculture Canada.

The file is updated monthly at a rate of approximately 12,000 citations per month.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Agricola data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), System Development Corporation (ORBIT), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Charles Bebee, Head
Automated Retrieval Services
Reference Division
National Agriculture Library
Beltsville, MD 20705 (301)344-3836

September 1979

AMERICAN STATISTICAL INDEX (ASI)

INTRODUCTION

ASI contains approximately 65,000 records from 1973 to the present and references to publications dating back to the early 1960's. On-line searches are made in free text as well as by using controlled index terms. Annual indexes act as subject term guides. Referenced publications are available on microfiche from Congressional Information Service, Inc. (CSI); bibliographic information is supplied on availability of hard copy publications. A Subject Term/Cross Reference File will be available in June 1980.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

ASI contains bibliographic information and abstracts about all U.S. Government publications that contain significant statistical information, including all documents published by: Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and National Center for Educational Statistics.

The file contains references to periodicals, annuals and biennials, publications in series, and special and monographic studies.

The file is updated monthly, with about 1,000 records added per month.

TRAINING SERVICES

Special CIS/ASI training workshops are available to user groups and other special groups. Contact CIS for information.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Consultation on search strategy is available upon request.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

An on-line Strategy Manual will be available in June 1980, and an updated edition of the SDC Search Manual for ASI will soon be available.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The ASI data base is currently accessible through the vendor, System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Bernice Usdane, Manager, Online Services
Congressional Information Service, Inc.
7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20014 (201)654-1550

September 1979

COMPREHENSIVE DISSERTATION INDEX (CDI)

INTRODUCTION

CDI contains 660,000 titles dating back to 1861. Documents are submitted by degree-granting institutions.

On-line searches provide title, volume and issue, and page number. Published indexes include abstracts, but there is often a one year or more delay. Complete texts are available on most titles.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The file contains citations for dissertations accepted at U.S., Canadian, and foreign universities. All subject areas are covered.

The subject areas most closely related to consumer education are: education, psychology, sociology, business and economics, and agriculture.

The file is updated monthly.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The CDI data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), System Development Corporation (ORBIT), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Phyllis R. Robb, Manager
Database Services
Dissertation Publishing
University Microfilms International
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 toll free (800)521-0600

September 1979

CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE INDEX (CIS/Index)

INTRODUCTION

CIS/Index, established in 1970, contains more than 100,000 records. On-line searches are made in free text as well as by using controlled index terms. Annual indexes act as subject term guides. Referenced publications are available on microfiche from CIS; bibliographic information is supplied on availability of hard copy publications. A Subject Term/Cross Reference File will be available by June 1980.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CIS/Index covers U.S. Congressional Committee publications, not including the Congressional Record (see C-RECORD). Subject coverage is comprehensive for the full range of issues and topics of legislative concern.

The file contains references to U.S. Congressional documents, hearings, reports, Committee prints, and Executive reports and documents.

The file is updated at a rate of approximately 1,200 citations each month. There is also a printed index, which is updated monthly. Quarterly and annual cumulations of this index are also published.

TRAINING SERVICES

Special CIS/ASI training workshops are available to user groups and other special groups. Contact CIS for information.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Consultation on search strategy is available upon request.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

An on-line Strategy Manual and updated edition of the SDC Search Manual will be available in June 1980.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The CIS/Index data base is currently accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT) and Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Bernice Usdane, Manager, Online Services
Congressional Information Service, Inc.
7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20014 (201)654-1550

September 1979

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (CRECORD or C-RECORD)

INTRODUCTION

CRECORD (pronounced C-RECORD), produced by Capitol Services, Inc. (CSI), provides comprehensive coverage of the Congressional Record, the official journal of the proceedings of the U.S. Congress. The data base corresponds to the daily CSI-printed "Congressional Record Abstracts - Master Edition." CRECORD provides daily customized reports (Selective Dissemination of Information - SDI) based on topics predetermined by the client.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CRECORD provides comprehensive on-line and SDI coverage abstracting Senate and House floor actions, as published in the Congressional Record. The data base contains references, bills, and resolutions, amendments to bills and resolutions, committee and subcommittee reports, public laws, schedules of committee and floor actions, executive communications, speeches, participation in debates, and inserted materials by members of Congress.

There is no thesaurus available, but C-RECORD can be searched by keyword and subject code.

The on-line file is updated weekly when Congress is in session. SDI services are provided daily.

TRAINING SERVICES

Training services are available through the service of System Development Corporation and CSI.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The CSI staff is comprised of many people with expertise in various legislative and regulatory matters. An extensive library of computer programs is available to provide information in many areas.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The CRECORD User Manual (rev. 1979) is available from System Development Corporation for $5.00. Supplemental user guides are available from CSI free of charge.

COST OF USING SERVICE

CRECORD is accessible only through the vendor, System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Use of the data base for in-house operations can be negotiated. Daily SDI reports and other topical publications are available from CSI.

CONTACT

Wayne Muhlstein
Capitol Services, Inc. (CSI)
511 Second Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20002 (202)546-5600

September 1979

CONSUMER EDUCATION RESOURCE NETWORK (CERN)

INTRODUCTION

CERN is a national resource and service network for the consumer education field. Funded by the Office of Consumers' Education, USOE/HEW, CERN is designed to meet the specific informational needs of consumer educators and to encourage and foster networking among consumer education interests. CERN provides access to human and material resources, and training and technical assistance is provided on a nationwide basis. CERN augments private and public dissemination and training resources, and strives to bring together existing consumer education interests and activities into a national network.

AUDIENCE

CERN serves all individuals involved in the education of consumers. This includes persons working within community service organizations, state and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, state and local public agencies, state and national education associations, national consumer organizations, and private industry.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CERN identifies and collects current information on all aspects of consumer education. A comprehensive reference and referral library, composed of print and audiovisual materials, is maintained. CERN's computerized data base provides easy access to these materials, information, and resources.

CERN provides reference and referral services to all consumer educators. Requests for information can be made in person, by mail, or via the toll-free telephone line. After a request is made, the CERN files are searched and within ten working days a bibliography of materials is compiled and sent to the requestor.

CERN also channels information through the network via:

- ConCERNs, a monthly publication containing feature and guest articles and items of interest to consumer educators.
- publications which address common information needs of consumer educators.
- a library of information and materials for on-site use.

TRAINING SERVICES

Short-term, noncredit training in various aspects of consumer education is provided using collaborative networking relationships.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance in program planning, implementation, and evaluation on all aspects of consumer education is provided using the networking concept—linking those who desire assistance with those persons or organizations that can provide such assistance.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

CERN explores and identifies the need for information/training materials to fill in gaps in existing resources. If deficiences are found or special needs are identified, CERN develops and produces the necessary materials for distribution.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Reference and referral services are provided free to consumer educators. However, if a specific request is made to search a data base other than CERN's the requestor may be asked to pay the cost of the search time. ConCERNs is available free of charge.

CONTACT

L. Gayle Royer, Director
Consumer Education Resource Network
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800
Rosslyn, VA 22209

toll free (800)336-0223
call collect (703)522-4616, if calling from Washington, D.C., Virginia, Alaska, or Hawaii

To place an information request, contact Nancy Nolf, CERN Information Services Coordinator.

September 1979

ENERGYLINE

INTRODUCTION

Energyline, established in 1971 by the Environment Information Center, inc., contains approximately 35,000 items. Citations include 100-word abstracts. Hard copies of documents are available as well as microfiche.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The file references over 3,500 scientific, technical, trade, and general publications; proceedings of major symposia or conferences; technical and research reports; official government documents and reports; and national newspapers.

Energyline addresses topics such as energy economics, policy and planning, conservation, consumption, and environmental impact.

The file is updated monthly, except for the summer months when there are only two updates from May through August.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Energyline provides the Energyline User's Manual.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Energyline data base is accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT) and Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Karen Ziegler
Environment Information Center, Inc.
292 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017 (212)949-9494

September 1979

ENVIROLINE

INTRODUCTION

Enviroline, established in 1971 by the Environment Information Center, Inc., contains approximately 70,000 items. Citations include 100-word abstracts. Hard copies of documents are available as well as microfiche.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENTS AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The Enviroline data base draws from thousands of worldwide sources of both serial and non-serial publications (scientific, technical, trade, and general); proceedings of major symposia or conferences; technical and research reports; official government documents and reports; and national newspapers.

Enviroline contains the world's entire range of environmental subjects, using 21 major classifications such as Air Pollution, Land Use, Solid Waste, etc.

The file is updated monthly.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Enviroline provides the Enviroline User's Manual.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Enviroline data base is accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT) and Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Karen Ziegler
Enviornment Information Center, Inc.
292 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017 (212)949-9494

September 1979

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD EDUCATION RESOURCES (ECER)

INTRODUCTION

The Exceptional Child Education Resources (ECER) data base is produced and maintained by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

ECER contains materials on education of handicapped and gifted children. While about one-half of the materials are duplicated in ERIC, CEC makes a valuable contribution in that it abstracts copyrighted materials, dissertations, and professional media. CEC uses the ERIC thesaurus to classify its 33,000 items.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

ECER is a comprehensive data base concerned with the education of handicapped and gifted children. It also includes information on other special needs groups such as bilingual, culturally different, delinquents, abused children, and handicapped adults.

The collection contains books, monographs, literature guides, legislative documents, journal articles, manuals, newsletters, research/conference reports, professional nonprint media, dissertations, and copyrighted materials.

The on-line file is updated eight times yearly with approximately 500 titles each time.

Other formats for dissemination include topical bibliographies, computer search reprints, fact sheets, and spot bibliographies.

TRAINING SERVICES

CEC's Conventions and Training Unit offers a series of over 50 intensive institutes designed to meet training needs in educational services to exceptional children. Institutes are currently available in the areas of delivery of services, early childhood education, individualized education program planning, and career education for exceptional individuals.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance is available from CEC's Evaluation, Planning, and Development Unit.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The ECER data base is accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT), Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Lynn Smarte
The Council for Exceptional Children
1920 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091

toll free (800)336-3728
in VA call collect (703)620-3660

September 1979

FEDERAL REGISTER (FEDREG)

INTRODUCTION

FEDREG is the only data base providing daily comprehensive coverage of federal regulatory agency actions; it is the computerized version of the Federal Register. FEDREG provides daily reports on specialized topics (one of which is consumer education). These customized reports (Selective Dissemination of Information - SDI) are based on topics predetermined by the client.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINIATION

FEDREG provides comprehensive on-line and SDI coverage abstracting each day's Federal Register. The data base contains references to meeting and hearing notices, public laws, and rules enacted each day as well as information about regulations, proposed rules, legal notices, and certain Presidential documents.

There is no thesaurus available, but FEDREG can be searched by keyword, title, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), government agency, Federal Register volume and page number, etc.

The on-line file is updated weekly. The printed reports (SDI) are produced daily.

TRAINING SERVICES

Training services are available through Capitol Services, Inc. (CSI) and SDC Search Service.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

CSI's staff has a wide range of expertise on many federal legislative and regulatory agency matters. An extensive library of computerized programs can be used in meeting many information needs.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The FEDREG User Manual is available from SDC Search Service for $5.00. Supplemental user aids are available from CSI free of charge.

COST OF USING SERVICE

FEDREG is accessible only through the vendor, System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Other on-line uses may be negotiated with CSI. Daily SDI reports and other topical publications are available through CSI.

CONTACT

Wayne Muhlstein
Capitol Services, Inc. (CSI)
511 Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002 (202)546-5600

September 1979

THE INTERAGENCY RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM/IRIS

INTRODUCTION

The Interagency Panel for Research and Development on Adolescence and the Interagency Panel on Early Childhood Research and Development maintain a computerized data base on ongoing federally sponsored research, development, demonstration, and evaluation projects for the purpose of sharing information and coordinating planning among the member agencies. The data base contains projects for FY 1974-FY 1978, and features a unique and expanding project data file on early childhood and adolescence collected from the 35-member agencies across the federal government. The FY 1978 portion of the data base contains approximately 5,600 active projects.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The file contains information spanning the full gamut of current research projects on children and youth which have been funded by member agencies.

By requesting a code or a set of codes (The User's Manual, which is available by request, lists and defines the codes used), one can get an abstract and any of the literal information for each relevant project. For instance, one can obtain lists of the titles of projects in special areas or categories of research such as Child Abuse, Adolescent Pregnancy, Cultural Awareness Education, or any combination of the hundreds of codes listed in the User's Manual, as well as abstracts of those projects.

The file is updated yearly.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

IRIS provides assistance with the formulation of requests.

COST OF USING SERVICES

Searches are conducted on a cost-reimbursement basis for nonfederal personnel.

CONTACT

Pat Coluzzi
IRIS
Social Research Group
The George Washington University
2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 (202)331-8706

LIBCON

INTRODUCTION

LIBCON, established in 1975, contains references to over 770,000 books.

LIBCON uses the Library of Congress classification system. Searches can be performed by title, author, library card number, library card call number, or Dewey Decimal number and subjects.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

LIBCON references all books in English and most western European languages, nonfiction and fiction, catalogued by the U.S. Library of Congress.

Information is retrieved in the form of a computer printout of Library of Congress catalogue cards.

The file is updated weekly.

TRAINING SERVICES

Training services are offered monthly at offices in New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Houston, and Santa Monica.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Call the numbers listed below to obtain technical assistance information.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The LIBCON data base is accessible only through the vendor, System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

Action Desk
SDC Search Service
2500 Colorado Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90406

toll free in California (800)352-6889
toll free in continental U.S.
outside California (800)421-7229

September 1979

MANAGEMENT CONTENTS DATA BASE (MANAGEMENT)

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1974, Management contains over 60,000 items covering U.S. and non-U.S. business literature. On-line access is available and information is retrieved in the form of computer printouts, full citations, and indicative abstracts. Management uses a controlled vocabulary and produces the Management Contents Data Base Thesaurus as a guide. Document copies are available.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Topics covered include banking, commodities and goods, economics, finance, government regulations, human resource development, industrial relations, management, marketing, production, and social issues.

In addition to its own publication, Management Contents, Management abstracts over 287 journals, periodicals, conference proceedings, and transactions.

The data base is updated monthly.

TRAINING SERVICES

Training is available in on-line data base usage.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Management provides the Management Contents Data Base Thesaurus.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Management data base is accessible through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT), Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

John D. Kuranz, President
Management Contents, Inc.
Box 1054
Skokie, IL 60077 (312)967-1122

September 1979

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS (NCES)

INTRODUCTION

NCES was established in 1965 to cover the area of educational statistics. Although NCES was recently established, coverage of materials goes back to 1870.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NCES references statistical surveys done by NCES, other government agencies, and nongovernment agencies. Coverage includes statistics from surveys of individuals, groups, and finances in the elementary, secondary, adult, vocational, college and university levels of education. Also included are statistics about libraries/media centers, museums, and educational television.

Replies are made by telephone, letter, or computer-readable tapes, printouts, or microfiche. NCES also publishes a journal entitled NCES Program and Plans.

The file is updated annually.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Off-line searches are free of charge to anyone. Computer tapes and on-line searches are available at cost. Special tabulations and printouts are available at the cost of computer time. Copies of documents are available, but limited.

CONTACT

W. Vance Grant, Specialist in Education Statistics
NCES
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202 (202)472-6237

For computer or on-line information, contact Robert Yuill (202)245-8760.

September 1979

NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MEDIA (NICEM)

INTRODUCTION

This data base is concerned with nonprint education materials. Over 500,000 items have been included in the data base since its beginning in 1966. NICEM is searchable in free text.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NICEM's sources of information are materials listed by Library of Congress, announced by publishers/producers, and included in NICEM's regional catalogues. NICEM's coverage of materials includes all educationally oriented nonprint media such as 16mm films, 35mm filmstrips, transparencies, videotapes, slides, etc., on all educational levels. NICEM also publishes indexes of single media and multimedia materials. Bimonthly updates of these indexes are provided free to subscribers.

Information retrieved is in the form of computer printouts which contain the subject area, type of media, audience level, length of media, and description of contents of the media. Document copies are not available; however, NICEM will provide custom catalogues of education media holdings.

The data base is updated on an unscheduled basis.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The NICEM data base is accessible through the commercial vendor, Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base. NICEM also provides direct mail service.

CONTACT

Art Schaak, Information Officer
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90007 (213)749-6681

September 1979

NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS/ NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM 1 (NICSEM/NIMIS 1)

INTRODUCTION

NICSEM/NIMIS 1 concerns itself with materials for special education. Established in 1974, it contains over 37,000 items. The data base is searched free text and the printout provides information on type of material, bibliographic data, price, etc. The materials themselves can be ordered from publishers, producers, or state and local learning resource centers.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NICSEM/NIMIS 1 covers print and nonprint materials to be used in schools and institutions with audiences ranging from preschool children to handicapped young adults. Information for the files is received from publishers and producers of the materials.

The file is updated on an unscheduled basis.

NICSEM/NIMIS 1 publications include a master catalogue and indexes cross-referenced by the handicapping condition; a Special Education Index to Learner Materials which includes 10,000 entries ($60); and the NICSEM Special Education Thesaurus, a search tool containing 2800 terms ($5).

COST OF USING SERVICES

The NICSEM/NIMIS 1 data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG) and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base. On-line searching services are also provided through NICSEM.

CONTACT

Information Specialists, NICSEM
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90007 toll free (800)421-8711; in CA call (213)741-5899

September 1979

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE (NTIS)

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1964, NTIS contains over 600,000 citations dealing with government-sponsored research, development,and engineering reports.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Subjects covered include social and economic research, business, management transportation, and state and local information.

The file is updated as needed.

Access is on-line and the citations include abstracts. The actual documents are available in hard copy or microfiche, and some reports are also available on magnetic tape, punched cards, or 16mm microfilm. NTIS publishes a search aid entitled A Reference Guide to the NTIS Bibliographic Data File.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The NTIS data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), System Development Corporation (ORBIT), Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

NTIS also operates NTISearch service which supplies abstracts. The basic charge for this service is $100 up to 100 citations. NTISearch has prepared special topic bibliographies, two of which cover "Consumer Products and Consumer Affairs" and one which covers "FTC Advertising Substantiation." Each bibliography is available at a price of $28.

CONTACT

James Jennings
National Technical Information Services
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161 (703)557-4785

For NTISearch service, contact Ed Lehman (703)557-4640.

September 1979

NEW YORK TIMES INFORMATION BANK
(THE INFORMATION BANK)

INTRODUCTION

The Information Bank has been available since 1974, and includes information abstracted from the nation's leading newspapers as well as from business publications, foreign affairs journals, economic and political journals, science publications, and various popular news-weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies. Approximately 1.70 million items are available on-line through the data base, and nearly 1,000 abstracts are added each working day, making The Information Bank one of the largest data bases available. There is only a four-day lag time between the current issue of The New York Times and entry of information from the paper into the data base. Monthlies and weeklies are current up to and including the previous issue.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Aside from providing on-line access to current events, The Information Bank abstracts literature in the fields of economics and finance, marketing, public relations, business, international affairs, legislation, military affairs, regulatory and consumer affairs, and new product evaluations.

Abstracts retrieved are in the form of computer printouts. The full text of original articles is available on microfiche for a nominal charge.

COST OF USING SERVICE

In addition to direct accessibility, The Information Bank also has an on-demand service where one can consult with a research professional who will discuss the topic of interest and also access the data base. Results are mailed the same day.

CONTACT

The Information Bank, Corporate Headquarters
Mount Pleasant Office Park
1719-A Route 10
Parsippany, NJ 07054 (201)539-5850

September 1979

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (PSYCH ABSTRACTS)

INTRODUCTION

Psych Abstracts, established in 1967, covers psychology and related fields. The data base includes over 240,000 entries from domestic and foreign periodicals, journals, reports, monographs, and books. As a search aid, Psych Abstracts publishes a Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Psych Abstracts covers the world's literature in psychology and related fields in the behavioral sciences; communication systems and language; applied psychology; education; social processes and social issues; experimental social psychology; etc.

Information is retrieved in the form of computer printouts with either brief or full citations.

The data base is updated monthly.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Psych Abstracts data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), System Development Corporation (ORBIT), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base. Searches are also available by direct mail service from Psychological Abstracts. Organizations will be billed.

CONTACT

Myra Daniels, Assistant Editor for Indexing
American Psychological Association
1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)833-7697

September 1979

PTS FEDERAL INDEX

INTRODUCTION

PTS Federal Index contains information on federal actions, regulations, and hearings. It was established in 1976 and contains over 150,000 items which are accessible on-line. The citation includes accession number, source identification, year, author, and descriptors. To aid the searcher there is a PTS Users Manual.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND MEHTOD OF DISSEMINATION

PTS Federal Index indexes Congressional Record, Federal Register, Presidential documents, Commerce Business Daily, and The Washington Post. The data base is updated weekly. PTS Federal Index also has two publications, Monthly Federal Index and Annual Cumulative Federal Index.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The PTS Federal Index data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG) and System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

Documents are available from Predicasts, Inc. for a fee. Requestors must also have a $50 deposit account with Predicasts, Inc.

CONTACT

Ramune Kubiliunas
Predicasts, Inc.
200 University Circle
Research Center, 11001 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106 (216)795-3000

September 1979

PTS U.S. STATISTICAL ABSTRACTS

INTRODUCTION

PTS U.S. Statistical Abstracts supplies forecasts on U.S. economics. As with the PTS Federal Index, citations from PTS U.S. Statistical Abstracts include accession number, source identification, year, author, and descriptors. The PTS Users Manual is also used as a search aid. This data base has over 125,000 items and was established in 1971.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Items in PTS U.S. Statistical Abstracts include forecasts about U.S. economics, demographics, finance, production, and products.

Sources of this information are trade journals, business and financial publications, key newspapers, government reports and special studies.

The data base is updated monthly.

COST OF USING SERVICE

PTS U.S. Statistical Abstracts is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG) and System Development Corporation (ORBIT). Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

Documents can be ordered from Predicasts, Inc. for a fee. Requesters must also have a $50 deposit account with Predicasts, Inc.

CONTACT

Ramune Kubiliunas
Predicasts, Inc.
200 University Circle
Research Center, 11001 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106 (216)795-3000

September 1979

SMITHSONIAN SCIENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE, INC. (SSIE)

INTRODUCTION

The SSIE data base contains descriptions of ongoing and recently completed research projects in all fields of science for the present and past two U.S. Government fiscal years, about 225,000 project records in all. The file is designed to provide a source of information about research projects from inception to published results. As such, SSIE is not a bibliographic reference source; rather, it is a referral source or clearinghouse for current research information.

AUDIENCE

Searches of the data base are available to any interested party.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The data base covers research in progress in all fields of science, including the following areas of particular interest for consumer education: agriculture, behavioral sciences, medical sciences, social sciences, engineering, and materials.

Search results consist of one-page Notices of Research Projects (NRP) which usually include: project supporting organization name and address and grant, contract, or control number; performing organization name and address; principal and coinvestigator names(s) and department(s); project title; period of performance; U.S. Government fiscal year; in some cases, project funding level; and a 200-word technical summary prepared by the investigator outlining the work to be performed during the coming year. NRPs are provided by over 1,300 organizations which fund research.

Search services can be obtained either off-line from SSIE directly, or on-line through the following vendors: System Development Corporation (ORBIT), Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG), and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. The results of searches of the file are copyrighted.

TRAINING SERVICES

User workshops for on-line services are available from SSIE or any of the on-line service vendors.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Estimates for specific file searches provided by SSIE staff are available on a complimentary basis. Requests for further information can be made by letter or telephone.

Technical assistance for on-line users is provided in the form workshops, two vocabulary tools, and telephone referral service search strategy design.

COST OF USING SERVICES

Descriptive information and fee schedules for services provided directly by SSIE are available on request. Fees for on-line usage are available from on-line service vendors.

CONTACT

Marketing Manager or On-Line Services Manager
SSIE
Room 300, 1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)381-4211

September 1979

SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (SA)

INTRODUCTION

Sociological Abstracts, on-line since 1963, now contains over 90,000 items dealing with sociology and related areas. Until 1973 the SA printout contained only the citation of the document, unless the searcher requested abstracts directly from SA. Since 1973 abstracts are available for all citations. To aid in the search process, SA provides a Users' Manual which includes descriptors, information on selection and coverage of materials, a sample search, and SA's editorial and indexing policy.

AUDIENCE

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

SA abstracts 130 journals in total, and screens an additional 1,200. The data base aiso contains abstracts of papers presented at sociological meetings. Prior to 1972 some books were abstracted. Subject areas include sociology, methodology, social psychology, culture and social structure, social change, economic development, mass phenomena, political interactions, rural and urban sociology, feminist studies, poverty studies, and sociology of the family.

The file is updated five times per year, adding approximately 1200-1400 records each time; a sixth issue is the cumulative index.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The Sociological Abstracts data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG) and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information searching this data base.

When a consumer educator searches SA, the total cost includes computer search time, telephone transmittal time, and perhaps off-line print time. Someone must pay these costs; SEAs, IEAs, IHEs, and state libraries often absorb the costs as normal service procedure.

CONTACT

Sociological Abstracts, Inc.
P.O. Box 22206
San Diego, CA 92122 (714)565-6603

September 1979

SOCIAL SCISEARCH (SSCI)

INTRODUCTION

Social and behavioral sciences are the main areas of interest of the SSCI data base which was developed in 1972 and now contains over 800,000 items.

As a search aid Social Scisearch publishes the Permuterm Subject Index, available at no charge.

Audience

Unlimited

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

SSCI scans over 1,500 source journals for information concerning business, finance, communications, health, demography, economics, education, ethnic groups, information, law, management, marketing, psychology, sociology, statistics, and urban development.

SSCI allows searching by cited references, which allows the searcher to locate documents that cite a particular author or paper.

Information is retrieved in the form of computer printouts with either brief or full citations. Full citations do not include abstracts but include bibliographic data on the particular paper retrieved and a list of the references used in that paper. Original documents or photocopies are available.

The data base is updated monthly.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The SSCI data base is accessible through the following vendors: Lockheed Information Systems (DIALOG) and Bibliographic Retrieval Services. Refer to the preface of this section for information on searching this data base.

CONTACT

James Hofstaedter, Supervisor of Customer Services
325 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106 toll free (800)523-1850

September 1979

CENTER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION MILWAUKEE

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Consumer Affairs serves the citizens of Wisconsin through consumer education, applied research, and public service in an attempt to make the market more responsive to those consumers seeking greater control over the quality of their lives. The consumer education program at the Center operates primarily through the maintenance of a library of consumer interest materials, publication of a monthly newsletter, and implementation of training workshops.

AUDIENCE

The Center provides information and training for teachers, community outreach workers, consumer agency staff, Extension staff, and the general public.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The Center is involved in research, education, and dissemination on a variety of topics related to the consumer education field. Its workproduct is distributed through conferences, seminars, workshops, newsletters, surveys, research papers, and speeches.

TRAINING SERVICES

The Center provides one-day training workshops for teachers, offers short courses in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Education Association, provides two-day training workshops for community outreach workers, offers graduate courses, and has offered the Assertive Consumer program to elderly citizens.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance is primarily related to consumer advocacy rather than consumer education, although the Center does assist with newsletter and press release production. The Center also provides technical assistance services to businesses, trade associations, and government.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center produces training materials which could be made available to other groups on an occasional basis.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The newsletter, Consumers in Action, is available monthly at no charge. Other publications on special topics are available at a cost of approximately $5.00.

CONTACT

James L. Brown
Center for Consumer Affairs
University of Wisconsin - Extension, Milwaukee
929 North Sixth Street
Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414)224-4177

September 1979

CENTER FOR CONSUMER SERVICES
Oklahoma State University (CCS)

INTRODUCTION

Although consumer-related studies are included as part of several programs, the major unit for consumer services education at Oklahoma State is the Department of Housing, Design and Consumer Resources. Education for improved quality of life for the ultimate consumer and the development of consumer affairs professionals are the two foci. The Department serves the consumer education field through a formal program for undergraduate and graduate studies and through the informal educational program of its Center for Consumer Services. CCS provides an information exchange and forum for government, business, and education leaders. Dissemination activities include:

- operation of a resource center involving a wide-ranging collection of materials for drop-in use;
- publication of a newsletter for professionals;
- origination of the Mid-American Consumer Education conference; and
- provision of training to special audiences.

AUDIENCE

CCS serves consumer educators across the state and outside Oklahoma to the extent that out-of-state service is self-supporting.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CCS maintains a resource library which contains print and audiovisual materials. The collection covers a broad range of consumer education topics.

TRAINING SERVICES

The Mid-American Consumer Education Conference serves approximately 150 participants from education, business, government, and community agencies for a two-day exposure to new ideas and materials.

A variety of courses in family financial management are taught at Air Force facilities.

CCS personnel also have conducted a two-day counseling seminar and a 15-week family financial management training session for social service agency field workers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

CCS provides technical assistance in proposal development and program planning and implementation to the public schools.

Model consumer education lesson plans have been developed for use with K-12 teachers and community agency staff.

COST OF USING SERVICE

At present, CCS provides all services and materials at no charge, with the exception of tuition for university courses and registration fees for conferences.

CONTACT

William L. Johnston, Director
Center for Consumer Services
Oklahoma State University
Home Economics West
Stillwater, OK 74074 (405)624-7084

September 1979

CENTERS FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

There are presently 195 centers for Economic Education affiliated with the Joint Council on Economic Education (JCEE). These centers, located at universities and colleges, are staffed by economic educators who hold faculty appointments in their institution's divisions of education and economics. The centers provide on-site reference libraries, training, and technical assistance. Centers vary in size and scope of services from a part-time person with a small library to one of many persons with an extensive library and a capability to produce materials for educators.

AUDIENCE

The centers serve university faculty and staff, and public school administrators and teachers. The centers are not designed to serve community educators outside the traditional education system.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

While the primary purpose of these centers is to improve and promote economic education, many centers are involved in activities which could be considered consumer education. The most frequent activity is to be found in the content areas of personal finance and issue analysis. The centers also disseminate information on techniques for integrating economic concepts into consumer education and other more traditional school courses.

TRAINING SERVICES

The centers provide both credit and noncredit training programs for teachers, administrators, and teacher educators. Courses range in length from a few hours to a full semester. Some focus entirely on consumer economics while others include consumer applications as a part of the content.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

A variety of services may be available from a center, such as materials, teacher education workshops or courses, and consulting services, including ways to evaluate pupil knowledge from consumer education courses.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The center tends to provide training in a workshop or course setting with training materials produced for these purposes. Some centers have developed curriculum materials to be used in the consumer education classroom.

COST OF USING SERVICE

When consumer educators use the services of a center, the cost varies with the service provided. Sometimes a school system will cover the costs of in-service training or technical assistance. Often, centers or state councils provide funds from their own budgets for in-service training. The libraries are available for use at no cost, and occasional information is always provided as a free service. Center-produced materials are usually distributed at a price which covers the cost of production.

CONTACT

To obtain the name of the nearest Center for Economic Education, contact your state Council on Economic Education. (State Councils are located in every state of the nation except Vermont.)

September 1979

MICHIGAN CONSUMER EDUCATION CENTER
Eastern Michigan University (MCEC)

INTRODUCTION

MCEC operates on the premise that many of the personal financial problems of adults in Michigan could be lessened if consumer education were strengthened in the schools. The Center is guided by a committee representing business, community, education, government, and labor. The committee works to strengthen consumer education programs in Michigan by providing: professional development services for consumer education teachers through resources, workshops, forums, seminars, conferences and publications; consultant services for program development; and a library of teaching/learning resources available on a loan or drop-in basis.

AUDIENCE

MCEC is designed to serve consumer educators in Michigan. Materials developed by MCEC are available to consumer educators nationwide. MCEC serves both traditional and nontraditional educators.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The resource library contains films, media kits, teaching units, curriculum guides, and textbooks. Materials cover a wide range of topics representative of consumer education concerns at a state or local level.

Materials developed at MCEC and disseminated widely include: guidelines for evaluating educational materials, guides for developing a consumer education file, and selected bibliographies.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Materials are loaned at no charge except that the user must pay return postage. Brochures are distributed at no charge. Bibliographies are sold at cost.

CONTACT

Rosella Bannister, Director
Michigan Consumer Education Center
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI 48917 (313)487-2292

September 1979

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION SERVICES (NJCCES)

INTRODUCTION

Located in Edison, New Jersey, the New Jersey Center for Consumer Education Services was established in 1971 to develop, promote, and implement an interdisciplinary approach to consumer education in public and private schools throughout the state of New Jersey.

A project of Education Improvement Center-Central and supported by funds from the State Department of Education, the center provides consulting services for state schools, maintains a research and preview resource library (containing print and nonprint materials), and holds in-service workshops and conferences for teachers.

AUDIENCE

Supported by funds from the New Jersey State Department of Education, the NJCCES is designed to serve the needs of New Jersey educators. However, the center will answer queries from other states.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The center publishes a bimonthly newsletter, monographs that show how consumer education can be integrated into various disciplines, resource guides that identify audiovisual materials, and various other consumer education materials.

The center also conducts workshops and conferences throughout the year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance is available upon request.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Consulting services and the newsletter are free. There is a charge for monographs and resource guides. Dissemination of these publications and services is limited to New Jersey residents.

CONTACT

Center for Consumer Education Services
Building 871, NJCCES
Plainfield Avenue
Edison, NJ 08817 (201)985-1885

September 1979

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (AACTE)

INTRODUCTION

AACTE is a national voluntary professional organization whose purpose is to help the education profession find ways to improve the quality of, and to diversify services to teachers already in, and those just entering the profession. The group has active programs in multicultural education, staff and program development, accreditation, governmental relations, and communications.

AUDIENCE

The membership consists of more than 860 collegiate institutions in the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico. There are also 4,000 officially appointed institutional representatives who determine the objectives and activities of the organization. These institutional representatives include administrators and faculties in departments, schools and colleges of education, and administrators and teachers in almost all academic departments. Collectively, member institutions prepare almost 90 percent of educational personnel eligible for initial certification.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

AACTE information collection and dissemination efforts include the cosponsorship of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Teacher Education.

Publications include conference proceedings, a membership directory, and a number of specialized and series publications on topics of interest to the membership. Periodicals include a monthly newsletter the AACTE Bulletin, and the bimonthly Journal of Teacher Education.

COST OF USING SERVICE

For nonmembers there is a charge for both the publications and the information services of this organization. All publications are offered free to members.

CONTACT

Executive Director, AACTE
Suite 510, One Dupont Circle
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)293-2450

September 1979

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON CONSUMER INTERESTS (ACCI)

INTRODUCTION

The American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) is the only major professional organization developed to promote consumer interests through education, research, and analysis of issues, policies, and developments. Of its 3,000 members, approximately 52 percent are professional educators. The remainder are either students or hold consumer-related positions in business or government. ACCI disseminates information primarily through: publications such as an interdisciplinary journal focusing on consumer issues and problems; a newsletter reporting new developments; a publication of teaching methods in consumer education; and an annual conference for the exchange of scholarly thought.

AUDIENCE

ACCI membership and services are open to all. Consumer educators could qualify either as voting or nonvoting members, based on their organizational affiliation. Practically, ACCI appeals to academic and governmental educators.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Although ACCI does not maintain a data file as such, much timely and valuable information is disseminated through the above-mentioned efforts.

The Journal of Consumer Affairs (JCA), published twice each year, contains scholarly research articles, some of which address consumer education directly, but all of which are related to the broad context of consumer education. In addition, JCA prints short articles which permit professionals to state their viewpoints on issues or questions. JCA also includes reviews and critiques of new literature in the field.

The ACCI Newsletter, published nine times each year, is perhaps the currently most valuable dissemination mechanism in the ACCI portfolio. The newsletter regularly carries notations of coming events; brief summaries of local, state, and national activities; and reports of new materials received. The content of the newsletter is generally restricted to information provided to the editor.

Consumer Education Forum, published three times each year, is designed for professionals involved in consumer education. Forum provides an exchange of effective consumer education techniques and methods.

TRAINING SERVICES

The annual conference is the only opportunity for consumer educators to interact on a national level and to share ideas with other personnel in the consumer field. There is usually a major portion of the

program devoted to consumer education topics. In addition to scholarly reports from consumer educators, the program permits a presentation by the research award winner in the consumer education category.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The ACCI Newsletter provides evaluations of consumer education materials.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The fee to join ACCI as a member is $20.00; as an institutional member, $30.00; as a student member, $10.00. Inasmuch as ACCI services are passive rather than interactive, a consumer educator could use all the services without incurring the membership fee. ACCI materials are available through university and state libraries. The annual meeting is open to nonmembers.

CONTACT

Mel Zelenak, Executive Director
162 Stanley Hall
University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, MO 65205 (314)882-3817

September 1979

AMERICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (AHEA)

INTRODUCTION

AHEA is a 50,000-member educational and scientific organization whose purpose is to improve the quality and standards of individual and family life through education, research, cooperative programs, and public information. Information is disseminated by means of professional education programs, a journal and newspaper issued at regular intervals throughout the year, a research journal, public affairs newsletters, learning packages, handbooks, and special publications of interest to consumer educators.

AUDIENCE

AHEA's direct services are restricted to its membership. However, AHEA members may be practicing home economists in university teaching and research, K-12 teaching, early childhood programs, extension programs for youth or adults, education administration, community programs, or business. Thus the national organization and member networks offer the public access to member expertise.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

AHEA provides information on:

- societal concerns affecting the family and women;
- home economics research;
- trends affecting home economics efforts within the educational, private, and governmental sectors;
- issues and concerns affecting the growth and development of the profession; and
- public policy formation.

In order to have maximum impact in the areas of public policy, professional development, outreach, and research, AHEA selects priorities and concentrates on a few issues that are as broad in scope as the diversity of members' expertise. One of AHEA's six priorities is "selected consumer advocacy issues."

Information on consumer protection, product safety, marketplace behavior, advocacy, and general education information is disseminated to all AHEA members. In turn, AHEA members work directly with millions of American youths and adults through their work in universities and colleges, federal and state governments, privately and publicly owned firms, school systems, community service agencies, cooperative extension service units, research agencies, and media organizations.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

In addition to the national convention sponsored by AHEA, many of AHEA's 52 affiliated associations across the United States offer seminars, workshops, and special programs related to consumer education. Registration for state and regional meetings is nominal and open to professionals other than home economists. Further information on meetings and publications may be obtained by writing to AHEA Information, 2010 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

COST OF USING SERVICE

AHEA members and nonmembers may register for programs and purchase publications. Official publications of the Association are included in member dues payments; however, subscriptions to the public are available.

Many libraries carry AHEA official publications and purchase other AHEA publications for their users. Cooperative extension service units, located in every county in America, offer information and publications (many at no or low cost) to the public.

CONTACT

Kinsey B. Green, Executive Director
American Home Economics Association
2010 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)862-8300

September 1979

ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (ASCD)

INTRODUCTION

ASCD is a professional organization for those interested in school improvement at all levels. Its purpose is to promote the improvement of professional skills in supervision, curriculum, and instruction.

AUDIENCE

ASCD has approximately 35,000 members, including supervisors, curriculum coordinators, directors of curriculum, consultants, professors of education, classroom teachers, principals, parents, superintendents, and others interested in school improvement at any level of education: elementary, secondary, college, or adult.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

ASCD's information and materials dissemination activities include: publication of a periodical, Educational Leadership, which is issued eight times a year; an annual yearbook; and an occasional periodical, News Exchange. ASCD produces other booklets, conference and workshop reports, and special interest publications. There is also an annual convention.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Publications are included in membership fees and are available at a fee to other interested persons.

CONTACT

Dr. Ron Brandt, Executive Editor of Publications
225 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314 (703)549-9110

September 1979

CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST (CSPI)

INTRODUCTION

CSPI seeks to promote responsible governmental and industrial policies, consumer education, and professional involvement in nutrition and health. CSPI works as a change agent and as part of a network of organizations devoted to food, health and other concerns. CSPI provides technical assistance, including service as a resource center and public speaking engagements. Notable activities include provision of witnesses for government hearings and distribution of over 354,000 copies of its twenty publications.

AUDIENCE

CSPI reaches consumers, consumer educators, advocacy groups and government officials.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CSPI disseminates materials and information on food, nutrition and health issues. Material dissemination is limited primarily to those materials produced by CSPI.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

CSPI is engaged in providing technical assistance to consumer educators in the forms of:

- CSPI as a resource center;
- CSPI staff speaking engagements before conventions or groups; and
- CSPI as the developer of materials to be used by educators, advocates, or the general public.

COST OF USING SERVICE

All materials are offered for sale. Prices range from under $0.25 for a brochure to less than $5.00 for a book.

CONTACT

Center for Science in the Public Interest
1755 S Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009 (202)332-9110

September 1979

CONSUMERS UNION (CU)

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1936, Consumers Union is a nonprofit, noncommercial consumer advisory organization. Consumers Union tests and rates products and provides consumers with information and counseling on consumer goods and services and all other matters related to the expenditure of family income, and initiates and cooperates with individual and group efforts to create better living standards.

CU's main headquarters are in Mount Vernon, N.Y. and there are two regional offices, one in San Francisco, California, and one in Austin, Texas. CU's Washington office monitors government activity, files petitions, and enters into litigation on behalf of consumer issues.

AUDIENCE

Membership in Consumers Union is open to all subscribers of Consumer Reports. Subscribers may become members of Consumers Union by written application, by sending in a nomination for the Board of Directors, or by voting in the annual election of CU's Directors. Ballots are mailed to all subscribers.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

CU houses the Center for the Study of the Consumer Movement, a library, archive, and research center. CU produces a variety of publications including multimedia programs, 16mm films, teacher resource books, a consumer news digest, radio news service, paperbound books and reprints.

CU's Consumer Reports, a monthly magazine, is one of the best-known and respected consumer magazines in the country. The bulk of the articles are reports of impartial laboratory tests evaluating brand name consumer products. The magazine also provides standards to which manufacturers adhere and which government agencies enforce. Once a year Consumers Union publishes a Buying Guide Issue which contains the year's ratings. In addition, the Buying Guide Issue provides information on topics of interest to consumers. Under an Education Order Plan, Consumer Reports is available to students at reduced rates.

CU also produces Consumers Union News Digest, a bimonthly publication which condenses and summarizes pertinent consumer information from more than 150 periodicals.

A new CU project is Penny Power, a bilingual consumer education magazine for elementary-grade children. It was initially funded by the Office of Consumers' Education and was developed in cooperation with Fordham University Learning Center. Bimonthly publication of Penny Power is scheduled to begin in September 1980.

COST OF USING SERVICE

There is a charge for all Consumers Union periodicals and publications. Group discounts are available for classroom use of Consumer Reports.

CONTACT

Charlotte M. Baecher, Director
Educational Services
Consumers Union
256 Washington Street
Mount Vernon, NY 10550 (914)664-6400

September 1979

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES (ECS)

INTRODUCTION

ECS is an interstate compact which attempts to further working relationships among governors, state legislators, and educators to improve education. ECS attempts to provide an environment conducive to the discussion, development, crystallization, and recommendation of public policy alternatives in the field of education. ECS also serves as a liaison between the states and the federal government.

Currently, forty-six states, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are members of ECS. Seven representatives from each constitute the operating body of the Commission.

ECS involvement in consumer education, begun in 1973 at the Commissioner of Education's request, has included:

- development of a task force to explore the status and needs of consumer education within the states;
- collection of consumer education materials used in the states;
- incorporation of consumer skills as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress;
- development of a project on consumption of post-secondary education;
- operation of a project to describe the current status of consumer education, to develop models for legislation and programs, and to increase the awareness among policymakers; and
- incorporation of consumer education aspects in other ECS projects.

AUDIENCE

ECS serves teachers, school administrators, and government agency staffs. Materials produced by ECS are available to any interested educator, but would be of particular interest to the above-mentioned groups.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

ECS provides information on state-related education activities and, when appropriate, suggests options and alternatives to meet specific state needs.

TRAINING SERVICES

ECS has held in-service seminars for post-secondary representatives on topics of immediate concern.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Contact the ECS Publication Office for price information on consumer education materials.

CONTACT

Education Commission of the States
300 Lincoln Tower
1860 Lincoln Street
Denver, CO 80295 (303)861-4917

September 1979

JOINT COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION (JCEE)

INTRODUCTION

JCEE, with 49 affiliated state councils, 195 university centers, and 450 cooperating school districts, is the most extensive and respected economic education organization in the United States. Programs encompass the coordinated efforts of the education, business, labor, agriculture, and government sectors. Economic education is frequently included in business education, social studies, consumer economics, and various career-oriented programs. Emphasis is placed on patterns of thinking and analysis using the tools of economics to address social and individual issues. The Joint Council's interest in consumer decision-making has resulted in:

- appointment of the National Commission on Economics and the Consumer during the 1960's to examine economics from the consumer viewpoint;
- development of a series of publications in personal economics (1967-1970) to improve instruction in personal decision-making in social studies, home economics, and business curricula;
- development of a Test of Understanding in Personal Economics which stressed an analytical and conceptual approach;
- development of strategies in teaching economic concepts through consumer education and basic business;
- development of national institutes focusing on the economics of consumer education;
- development of papers and aids for assisting school districts in implementing consumer economics in grades K-12; and
- a myriad of activities at the council and center levels, including workshops and publications.

AUDIENCE

JCEE serves primarily the K-university educators within its own system of state councils, affiliated centers, and cooperating schools. The target audience includes educators concerned with the teaching of economic concepts.

Publications of the JCEE are available through its affiliated centers and the JCEE office. Most university libraries have the JCEE materials. The publications may be used by any educator who wants to emphasize the economic aspects of consumer education.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

JCEE collects, develops, and disseminates information and materials on economic education methodologies, content, and evaluation, and publicizes innovative programs of outstanding teachers. JCEE addresses economic education within the context of established curricula at the K-university level.

TRAINING SERVICES

The state councils and centers provide both credit and noncredit training programs for teachers, administrators, and teacher educators. Courses range in length from a few hours to a full semester. Some focus entirely on consumer economics while others include consumer applications as a part of the content.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

JCEE has been involved in technical assistance through:

- development of a series of publications in personal economics (1967-1970) to improve instruction in personal decision-making in social studies, home economics, and business curricula;
- development of a Test of Understanding in Personal Economics which stressed an analytical and conceptual approach;
- development of strategies in teaching economic concepts through consumer education and basic business courses or units of study;
- a full-time staff person who provides assistance to councils, centers, and cooperating schools in the area of consumer economics; and
- development of a newsletter for consumer education teachers.

Through staff and consultants, the councils and centers provide technical assistance in program planning and implementation.

Several councils and centers produce curriculum guides or analyze materials for use in consumer education programs. Materials tend to emphasize methods of incorporating economic concepts into existing school curricula.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Although affiliated with JCEE, each council and center functions as an independent unit. The councils and centers tend to provide training in a workshop or course setting and training materials are produced for those uses.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The national JCEE staff and the staffs of the affiliated centers will respond to the educator's questions at no charge. Publications are available through state councils and centers on a free, loan, or fee basis, depending on the materials. The JCEE has a Checklist of materials that lists JCEE publications and price information. A JCEE periodical, the Journal of Economic Education is available for $4.00 per year; a consumer economics newsletter, Con-ec-tions, is available free of charge.

CONTACT

John E. Clow, Director
Business and Consumer Economic Programs
Joint Council on Economic Education
1212 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036 (212)582-5150

September 1979

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS (UAW)

INTRODUCTION

The International UAW's Consumer Affairs Department, created in 1968, is the servicing department regarding consumer affairs activities in the areas of education, advocacy, and representation. It presently employs a variety of methods of providing consumer education information, material, and technical assistance, including: publications and films; union conferences, workshops, and educational events; and Community Action Program (CAP) Councils, the UAW's political action arm at the state and local levels.

The Consumer Affairs Department has initiated and further developed consumer education services and programs through grants. The first grant facilitated UAW's coordination of three regional consumer conferences, one national consumer conference, and the development of additional consumer educational material. The second grant provided the vehicle by which the UAW developed and integrated consumer affairs course work into college-level Labor Studies programs.

AUDIENCE

Each CAP Council is requested to have a consumer affairs committee. The committee serves to educate and advocate for other union members. This committee represents its members.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The UAW Consumer Affairs Department disseminates information and materials on advocacy skills, consumer resource management, and consumer protection.

TRAINING SERVICES

The UAW Consumer Affairs Department provides workshops to train its union consumer educators and advocates.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The Department assists its members in setting up and operating CAP Councils.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The UAW Consumer Affairs Department has prepared a manual for use in training CAP Councils.

COST OF USING SERVICES

Dissemination services are provided to members at no charge.

CONTACT

Mrs. Odessa Komer, Vice President and Director
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and
Agricultural Implement Workers (UAW)
Solidarity House
8000 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48214 (313)926-5357

September 1979

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMER AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS (NACAA)

INTRODUCTION

NACAA's 90-member organization, instituted in 1976 following repeated requests from agency directors, is active in the creation, development, and implementation of consumer education programs and materials. NACAA serves its members through 1) an information exchange mechanism, 2) a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of materials and information, 3) development of resource materials, and 4) workshops exploring the various issues and problems encountered by consumer agencies.

Members of NACAA employ a variety of methods of educating administrators, teachers, and consumers: many NACAA agencies appear on or host radio and/or television programs; many write public service announcements for radio and television; and many also write consumer-oriented newspaper columns. Printed materials are distributed through the complaint handling process, speaking engagements, etc.

AUDIENCE

NACAA primarily serves its membership. Members serve educators in their communities, particularly by providing current information on consumer protection issues.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NACAA disseminates information regarding programs and activities of the membership, materials developed by members, and information regarding legislative or regulatory action at the national, state, and local levels. NACAA produces and distributes a monthly newsletter and answers requests on an individual basis.

TRAINING SERVICES

NACAA members conduct seminars, courses, and workshops for consumer educators as well as consumers. NACAA provides similar training for members.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

NACAA and individual members provide technical assistance through active participation in the formulation of consumer education curricula and competency examinations.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

NACAA is currently collecting training materials from members, and beginning to develop a training program for volunteers working in consumer agencies.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Subscriptions to the newsletter are available. Dissemination services are provided as a membership benefit and no additional charge is involved.

CONTACT

Helen Savage
National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators
1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 322
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)347-7395

September 1979

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION (NASBE)

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with the increase of state-level supervision of education, NASBE has become more active in providing leadership to state boards of education. This prodigious task is being accomplished through national and regional meetings, on-site technical assistance, and distribution of a myriad of publications and periodicals.

NASBE is actively involved in the expansion of consumer education programs and materials. The NASBE Board views consumer education as a vital and mandatory field of study and as part of a general commitment to provide practical survival skills. They further regard consumer education as important in its relationship to energy education.

In response to these needs, NASBE has implemented a host of new avenues by which consumer education policies, materials, and programs can be disseminated. These consist of:

- the extension of publications dealing with areas of consumer education; and
- an increase in technical assistance for state boards of education in the formulation of consumer education policies.

AUDIENCE

NASBE serves state board members. Additionally, NASBE's newsletter, FOCUS, is sent to 1,300 state and federal policymakers. A monograph series is available to any consumer educator.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NASBE provides information on the policy development process, agenda building, legislative influencing, chief-board role differentiation, the goal and priority setting process and such specific board policies as: desegregation, community education, teacher certification, student due process, gifted and talented education, education for the handicapped, and consumer education.

FOCUS covers NASBE current events, projects, exemplary educational policies and programs, issues of educational importance, and editorials.

NASBE also publishes Potomac Review, a legislative newsletter covering congressional and federal agency activities.

NASBE has produced a monograph series on consumer education content, program design, and topics and issues.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The monograph series may be purchased for $7.50.

CONTACT

National Association of State Boards of Education
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001 (202)624-5845

September 1979

NATIONAL COALITION OF HISPANIC MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS (COSSMHO)

INTRODUCTION

COSSMHO, a private nonprofit organization, is comprised of over 200 community-based agencies, five national organizations, and hundreds of individuals. COSSMHO works toward research, service and personnel development, funding resources, and information exchange in:

- mental health, drug abuse and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention;
- health planning, education and services delivery, and developmental disabilities, including mental retardation;
- special needs of families and children, especially those who because of low income are high-risk population groups;
- youth services, with emphasis on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention; and
- services to the elderly to improve health and well-being and to overcome physical and social isolation.

COSSMHO's interest and involvement in consumer education has developed in response to needs identified at the community level throughout its membership. COSSMHO reaches its constituency through conferences, newsletters, and mailings.

AUDIENCE

COSSMHO membership includes planners, educators, trainers, researchers, program administrators, and service providers. The newsletter, Reporter, is published six times per year and is sent to members, other subscribers, minority coalitions, legislators, some federal agencies, and professional associations. A monthly publication, Roadrunner, features legislative developments and is distributed to members and other subscribers. Other mailings on special topics are also prepared.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Information disseminated by COSSMHO includes: consumer education, health care, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and mental health services, legislative developments, and consumer affairs information.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance may be arranged upon request, by the National Office or by selected experts in the topic area. Consultants are either members of COSSMHO or are known to COSSMHO as leaders in Hispanic communities. COSSMHO provides technical assistance in the development of consumer-oriented materials in English and Spanish.

COST OF USING SERVICE

To obtain COSSMHO publications, a nonmember consumer educator would have to subscribe at a cost of $12 per year for the Reporter and $10 per year for the Roadrunner.

CONTACT

Rodolfo B. Sanchez, National Executive Director
The National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health
and Human Services Organizations
1015 15th Street, N.W., Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)638-0505

September 1979

NATIONAL CONSUMERS LEAGUE (NCL)

INTRODUCTION

NCL, the nation's oldest consumer organization, is an activist, private membership group guided by a 50-member Board of Directors. NCL perceives consumer education in the role of a change agent, as a means of enforcement, and as a channel to consumer representation.

AUDIENCE

NCL membership is available to all consumer educators and interested individuals. NCL wants to reach community-based programs and also cooperates with labor unions and corporations that integrate consumer concerns into their policies and services.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NCL's three-fold approach is implemented by the dissemination of:

- a bimonthly Bulletin which recounts NCL activities and research and discusses NCL priorities and current developments in the consumer movement;
- a Consumer Almanac chronicling the history of the consumer movement in a light, entertaining style;
- a series of manuals developed by the Assertive Consumer project (for administrator, instructor, and student) to provide guidance in operating training workshops for consumers at the community level;
- a pamphlet to aid consumers in establishing centers to facilitate representation for consumers of a specific product or service;
- a guide to consumer complaint arbitration providing consumers with a list of typical consumer complaints against businesses and the results of some representative cases; and
- a two-year Consumer Education Development Program being conducted jointly with two prominent universities, including a study of consumer education purposes and objectives and strategies for the development and implementation of consumer education programs in the classroom and community.

TRAINING SERVICES

NCL trains consumer and community leaders in important consumer knowledge and skills through its successful Assertive Consumer program.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Technical assistance provided by NCL includes participation in government policysetting; organization of, and training and assistance in, project development for consumers, consumer leaders, and organizations; and cooperation with labor unions and corporations that integrate consumer concerns into their policies and services.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

A series of manuals were developed by the Assertive Consumer project (for administrator, instructor, and student) to provide guidance in operating training workshops for consumers at the community level.

COST OF USING SERVICE

NCL membership is available for $15 per year for individuals and $50 for organizations. Materials are provided to nonmembers at a modest cost.

CONTACT

Sandra Willett, Executive Vice President
National Consumers League
1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 406
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)797-7600

September 1979

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

INTRODUCTION

NCSS is the professional association of teachers, supervisors, curriculum specialists and others interested in the maintenance, improvement and promotion of social studies. Within this organization a variety of special interest groups exist--one of which is concerned with consumer economics and education.

AUDIENCE

NCSS serves elementary, secondary and university teachers, supervisors, curriculum specialists and others interested in maintaining and improving social studies. Thus NCSS could serve any consumer educator who would be interested in materials.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NCSS possesses three vehicles by which the dissemination of consumer education materials occurs: one is annual regional and state publications; another is reports of national and regional meetings and workshops; the third is NCSS's Field Services Program which consists of two teacher associates from the NCSS National office who work directly in the field with groups of teachers and state and local councils wherever there is need for additional information.

NCSS publishes a journal seven times per year which contains a wide range of articles for such disciplines as history, geography, economics, and other social sciences; interdisciplinary areas such as global studies; and topical areas such as consumer education. NCSS also publishes methodology pamphlets as well as reports, position papers, and contracted work.

TRAINING SERVICES

NCSS's Field Services Program provides assistance to groups of teachers, and state and local councils wherever there is a need for additional information. NCSS does not currently offer workshops in consumer education, but is interested in doing so.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

NCSS issues approximately six methodology papers each year. Consumer education would be an appropriate topic for such a paper.

COST OF USING SERVICE

NCSS is a membership organization; however, their publications are carried by most university libraries, so a nonmember could have access to NCSS products at no cost. Publications can also be obtained from NCSS directly.

CONTACT

National Council for the Social Studies
3615 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016 (202)966-7840

September 1979

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA)

INTRODUCTION

NEA is a national professional association which promotes the development of public education in the United States and advances the interests of the teaching profession. It serves as a coordinator among educators in realizing goals on the national, state, and local levels; acts as a liaison with federal administrative and regulatory agencies; and acts as a lobbyist in Congress. NEA also aids in the development of effective local and state political action structures and in planning structures for political action.

AUDIENCE

NEA's audience is composed of approximately 2 million members, most of whom are classroom teachers.

There are also education associations in every state plus 10,000 local affiliates.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

NEA information dissemination activities include the publication of a quarterly journal, Today's Education; a bimonthly newsletter, the NEA Advocate; and NEA Now, a newsletter which is published 24 times a year. NEA also sponsors an annual convention and publishes occasional research reports and a number of nonprint materials for use in the classroom.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Publications are provided free of charge to members. Nonmembers are required to pay for publications.

CONTACT

National Education Association
1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)833-4000

September 1979

PAUL H. DOUGLAS CONSUMER RESEARCH CENTER, INC.,
Consumer Federation of America (CFA)

INTRODUCTION

CFA, the nation's largest consumer organization, is a federation of 220 nonprofit organizations dedicated to advancing consumer interests through advocacy and education. The Paul H. Douglas Consumer Research Center was established in 1972 to implement research, educational and charitable activities. The Center's National Community Consumer Education Project, begun in 1976, assists local nonprofit groups with the creation and implementation of effective consumer education/action programs at the community level through: workshops and conferences serving over 950 consumer activists and educators; a newsletter, handbooks, a resource list; and a resource library shared with other CFA projects.

AUDIENCE

CFA serves its 220-member organizations, other groups to which CFA belongs, government decisionmakers, consumers, and consumer educators.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Activities and information cover a wide range of consumer concerns including energy, food and nutrition, housing, credit and banking, insurance, health, product safety, advertising, taxes, corporate accountability, antitrust, the environment, regulatory reform, and public participation. CFA gathers facts, analyzes issues, and prepares testimony and statements on needed reforms. CFA issues reports on the status of pending governmental action and analyses of the potential impact on consumers. CFA produces policy statements, a monthly newsletter on legislative matters, a consumer assembly and special topic forums.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The newsletter, CFA News, is available for $24 per year. The CFA information Service is available for $124 per year, which includes the newsletter and access to all CFA briefing publications. Occasional information requests are filled at no charge. The fee for attending the annual meeting varies from $75 for representatives of CFA member groups to $295 for representatives of business.

CONTACT

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Consumer Federation of America
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Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)737-3732

September 1979

PUBLIC CITIZEN, INC.

INTRODUCTION

Public Citizen, Inc., funded primarily by consumer contributions, was created by Ralph Nader to provide research data or legal redress for a variety of consumer issues, in addition to congressional and regulatory oversight.

AUDIENCE

The bulk of Public Citizen materials are sent to consumers upon request. Many materials are appropriate and available to consumer educators.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Public Citizen is involved in issues such as energy, housing, tax reform, pollution, antitrust regulation, occupational health and safety, food additives and pesticides, citizenship and consumer education, and consumer complaint procedures.

Based on research and activity in these issues, Public Citizen produces consumer materials such as flyers, pamphlets, project directories, citizen action guides, newspapers, investigative reports, and teaching kits. Information is disseminated through responses to written queries, public speaking engagements, operation of the Public Citizen Visitors Center, and the Public Scholars Research Bank (a research clearinghouse.)

TRAINING SERVICES

For short-term training, most of the Nader groups offer summer internships involving consumer advocacy procedures and skills with intensive study on particular issues. Long-term training is available to students who take off a year, often as part of their school's curriculum. These project reports are often published.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

A main thrust of Public Citizen is to provide research or legal redress for consumer issues as they are perceived. Researchers, lawyers, and the directors of the Nader groups respond to consumer queries by mail or phone. They often speak to audiences or attend conferences, lending their technical assistance to a broad public.

A good source for further technical assistance is the Public Citizen Visitors Center which serves the public as a clearinghouse for information about Capitol Hill and other federal and consumer agencies. Schedules of committee meetings and hearings on consumer issues, plus a calendar of events for related consumer activities, are published bimonthly by the Visitors Center. Seminars for school and community groups, films, monthly forums with government officials, press conferences as well as tours of the internal workings of Capitol Hill are provided through the Visitors Center facility.

Another project providing technical assistance to educators is the Public Scholars Research Bank. This booklet of 112 proposals for research in the public interest was compiled by surveying public interest groups across the country. Such groups have numerous research needs, but lack the staff and resources needed to undertake them. In contrast, faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students often seek meaningful topics to fulfill requirements for papers, theses, dissertations, articles, and books. The Bank functions as a clearinghouse, matching scholars with research projects. The groups make their resources and contacts available to the scholar in return for a copy of the final study. A copy of the final study is also submitted to the Research Bank for inclusion in a reference library available to all interested individuals.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Citizen Action Guides and How To Directories for organizing student PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups) and Congress Watch Locals (congressional lobbying) are available.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Although some materials are free (such as those distributed at gatherings), other materials are priced to cover printing and postage costs.

CONTACT

Public Citizen, Inc.
P.O. Box 19404
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)293-9142

September 1979

PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUPS (PIRGs)

INTRODUCTION

PIRGs are independent, nonprofit student organizations promoting constructive social change through research, advocacy, and public education. PIRGs have successfully assisted many citizen groups with various concerns in demanding corporate and government responsiveness in the public interest. In addition to the 25 state PIRGs, there is a National PIRG Clearinghouse in Washington, D.C. This central organization, ideally located for expeditious retrieval of national news, establishes a broader means of communication, as well as assists state PIRGs in organizing new chapters.

AUDIENCE

PIRGs exchange information with other state PIRGs, the National PIRG Clearinghouse, and other consumer groups. Besides these groups, PIRGs exchange information with a broad spectrum of organizations, from urban religious coalitions to local Save-Our-Forests groups, from legal and political groups to cultural and community organizations.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

PIRGs are a source of information on a number of consumer-related issues ranging from nutrition to nuclear power. PIRGs conduct original research and publish reports to assist in public education.

COST OF USING SERVICE

PIRG materials are available at a modest cost to cover production.

CONTACT

National PIRG Clearinghouse
1329 E Street, N.W., Suite 1127
Washington, D.C. 20004 (202)347-3811

September 1979

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (PLA), AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTION

PLA, a subsection of the American Library Association, is concerned about the possibilities for cooperation with government agencies at all levels to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of information dissemination. PLA has established an ad hoc committee to study the role of the public library in providing consumer information. The committee has worked very closely with the Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration, Pueblo, Colorado.

AUDIENCE

PLA serves its own membership, all of whom are potential consumer educators.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The content to be disseminated to the ultimate consumer is as broad as the content of the public library, but is limited by the initiative of the librarian and the interest of the consumer. PLA can inform its own membership of the opportunities and responsibilities in the consumer information role, and encourage members to view themselves as consumer educators. PLA can also provide assistance in locating other information sources.

COST OF USING SERVICE

PLA materials are available at a modest cost to cover production.

CONTACT

Shirley Mills
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611 (312)944-6780

September 1979

SOCIETY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS IN BUSINESS (SOCAP)

INTRODUCTION

Founded in Washington, D.C. in 1973, the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in Business is an international organization of individuals interested in bridging the gap between consumers and business. SOCAP members include individuals in business, trade associations, government, media, and education. The purpose of SOCAP is to foster the integrity of business in its dealings with consumers, to promote harmonious relationships between business, government and consumers, and to advance the consumer affairs profession.

AUDIENCE

The membership includes over 3,000 members in the United States, Canada, and Europe. In the United States there are currently nine functioning chapters: New York; Delaware Valley; Atlanta; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Minneapolis - St. Paul; Southern California; Northern California; and Los Angeles. Regular voting membership is open to any individual in a business, business-sponsored or quasi-business organization or association. Associate membership (nonvoting) is available to those who are interested in activities of the society but who are not eligible for regular membership. Individuals enrolled in an accredited educational institution may become student members.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

SOCAP publishes a bimonthly newsletter, Update, which provides news of interest to the membership. An annual Directory is also published and distributed to all members. Other special interest publications have also been distributed. Throughout the year, SOCAP also conducts a series of regional workshops, an annual spring conference, and an annual meeting and exchange.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Publications are provided free to SOCAP members. The membership directory is not available to nonmembers. Update is available to nonmembers at a subscription price of $10.00.

CONTACT

Moylan Brown, Executive Director
Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in Business
777 14th Street, N.W., Suite 236
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)393-3270

September 1979

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (USCM)

INTRODUCTION

USCM, with membership of Mayors from all cities with a population in excess of 30,000, adamantly supports consumer education. USCM is actively working in the area of consumer education directing programs such as: a Task Force on Aging, Housing Assistance Programs, and Handgun Control. A clearinghouse and information center is maintained in Washington, D.C. as well as a computerized on-line data bank for the retrieval of city-based information. USCM also works closely with the National League of Cities in maintaining an extensive library service which locates, collects, and disseminates information materials. USCM provides leadership and assistance to its members through the Mayors Leadership Institute and various publications.

AUDIENCE

USCM serves its membership. However, there is an interest in consumer education, and a willingness to analyze the aforementioned data in order to learn more about consumer education needs.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

USCM, through the clearinghouse and data bank, disseminates information on community programs and institutions, legislative analyses, and policy analyses.

The on-line data bank includes city-based information in areas such as population; education; birth and death rates; labor force; income levels; families; social security and public assistance; housing stock; utility costs; local government finances; crime; banking; wholesale, retail, and manufacturing trades; rural population, etc.

CONTACT

John J. Gunther, Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006 (202)293-7300

September 1979

ATTORNEYS GENERAL/DISTRICT ATTORNEYS (AGs/DAs)

INTRODUCTION

Consumer protection is the major thrust of outreach programs in most AGs/DAs offices. While various programs do exist which attempt to educate the public on basic consumer issues and problems, the major effort is directed toward the dissemination of consumer protection educational information. AGs/DAs purport that although the existing laws were designed to be consumer-oriented, they are meaningless and, in fact, worthless without consumer awareness and business compliance.

AGs/DAs offices provide education services 1) to educate consumers and businesses regarding their legal rights, 2) to work with school systems to develop consumer education curricula, 3) to produce television or radio shows to inform consumers of their legal rights or to address specific problems, 4) to provide films, booklets, etc. for use with consumer groups, and 5) to provide telephone complaint handling assistance.

AUDIENCE

AGs/DAs offices serve businesses and consumers, consumer educators, other government offices, and the legal profession. While consumer educators represent a very small audience, educators can profit from many of the materials or services designed for the other audience groups.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Information and material are disseminated on consumer protection related topics such as rights and responsibilities, redress alternatives and procedures, consumer laws, and fraudulent practices.

COST OF USING SERVICES

There is seldom a financial cost for use of material or for information services. The primary cost is one of time required to contact the many AGs/DAs offices to determine what materials and services are available.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs)

INTRODUCTION

IHEs function in three possible ways: 1) teaching, 2) research, and 3) service to the community. Faculty are grouped into departments or colleges which may encourage or restrict consumer education activity. These groupings, which traditionally have housed consumer educators, include home economics, business, social sciences, and agricultural economics. IHEs cover the complete range of consumer education concepts.

IHE personnel disseminate information through teacher in-service and pre-service training, publications, speaking engagements, etc.

AUDIENCE

IHE faculty primarily disseminate information to students and to colleagues. To a lesser extent, they disseminate to school administrators and community groups.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

University faculty, taken as a whole, cover the complete range of consumer education concepts. Faculty are the source of much of the knowledge and research in the field, as well as new thinking. Unfortunately, much of the information and material generated by faculty is not disseminated. Examples are unpublished research, speeches given but which never appear in accessible written form, materials produced for classes of workshops but which are never refined and disseminated beyond the original audience.

TRAINING SERVICES

IHEs provide pre-service training for K-12 classroom teachers and for educators in other community programs. Through graduate course offerings, or at the behest of SEAs, IEAs or LEAs, IHEs provide in-service training for K-12 teachers. IHEs respond to the need for training for community program staffs.

Inasmuch as the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is affiliated with IHEs, CES services are actually a part of the total IHE training package.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

IHE faculty provide assistance in needs assessment, curriculum development and evaluation, and program implementation. Faculty are available as consultants to consumer education programs.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

IHEs produce course syllabi and other course-related training materials. Additionally, IHEs often develop more innovative training materials for use in in-service or pre-service training.

COST OF USING SERVICE

The cost of dissemination as it exists may be quite high. Often one must enroll in a university course or attend a professional conference in order to obtain information. Alternatively, faculty are providing in-service education programs funded by local school systems or other sources which reduce the cost to teachers. There are fewer incidences of dissemination to nontraditional educators.

STATE EDUCATION AGENCIES (SEAs)

INTRODUCTION

SEAs are responsible for the certification of classroom teachers, and thus have a significant influence on pre-service training. SEAs are involved in curriculum planning at the university level to ensure that programs provide teachers-in-training with appropriate learning experiences. Additionally, SEAs are responsible for in-service training. SEAs determine, through the allocation of funds, which content areas will be stressed and how teachers will receive in-service training.

SEAs provide technical assistance to classroom teachers, local education agency (LEA) administrators, and university staffs. SEAs frequently influence the activities of Intermediate Education Agencies (IEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) because funds must pass through and be allocated by SEAs.

AUDIENCE

Most SEA information systems have not been overwhelmed with requests for consumer education materials and information. The few states that have legislative mandates and some resources to implement mandated programs have significantly more activity in the consumer education information area.

In most SEAs the consumer education focus is on the vocational education, consumer and homemaking, and business education areas, with less activity in the social sciences.

Most SEA information systems are able to serve any consumer education client. Even those not affiliated with the state library system can channel requests for information through IEAs or even local school districts.

These systems not only have information, but also can supply technical assistance, and often limited funding, to assist in program development and adoption.

Most SEA information systems are able to serve a broad audience of consumer education advocates. The few SEAs limited by policy to serve only grades K-12 will most likely not go beyond that area.

It should be noted that many SEAs have an interesting and effective interface with the higher education information staffs in libraries and schools of library science. This phenomenon increases the resource base for consumer education.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The core materials included in the SEA collections are derived from many data bases, such as ERIC, Psychological Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, National Technical Information Service, ABI/INFORM, Dissertation Abstracts, and others.

State files are being developed and include teacher-developed practices funded by Title IVc, Vocational Education, Right to Read, and others. State files also are including listings of human resources who can provide technical assistance to local educators. Many state files are interfacing with their respective state library systems and are cataloguing state documents on subjects other than education.

Programs validated by the National Diffusion Network (NDN) are an important part of the resource system. Many states are validating Title IVc projects to enhance their diffusion and adoption by other schools. Curriculum materials developed by state agencies are entered into the state file and are searched by descriptors.

Most of the updating of these systems is automatic. The national data bases searched are updated by the parent system. SEA-developed curriculum materials and abstracts of SEA-funded programs are channeled automatically to the state file.

Many state systems are utilizing the services of some intermediary--a linking agent--between the resource and the user. Users of information systems tend to be good suppliers of program information. People who comprise the linkage system discover programs and practices at the local level and channel them to the state files.

State files are being developed in such a way that they can be purged or amended easily. Some systems can call documents on-line, make changes, and re-enter the abstract.

Selection criteria varies among states, but most states are establishing some type of validation scheme for projects. Sometimes a panel responds to claims made by a program developer and gives the program a 'seal of approval.' Some states catalogue only validated programs. Others catalogue all programs and have the validation dimension as one data element that can be searched. Thus a request could be made to include only validated programs. A less stringent search could retrieve all programs having various levels of validation.

TRAINING SERVICES

SEAs provide pass-through funds to universities, IEAs, and LEAs to provide training for classroom teachers. Some SEAs do conduct direct training programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

State files are being developed and include teacher-developed practices funded by Title IVc, Vocational Education, Right to Read, and others. Many state files also are including listings of human resources who can provide technical assistance to local educators.

Another very important aspect of these systems is their linkages to local schools. Most have some agent of interpersonal communications to encourage the assessment of local needs and the consideration of alternatives.

SEAs provide curriculum guides to K-12 programs and to teacher training institutions.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Some SEAs directly develop training materials. Most SEAs provide guidance and funding for trainees to develop such material.

COST OF USING SERVICE

Cost is seldom related to the information request and subsequent search. In some cases the client must purchase follow-up documents.

The state system will supply the trained technician to search the files and also will pay for computer time.

CONTACT

Counsel of Chief State School Officers
400 No. Capitol St., N.W.
Suite 379
Washington, D. C. 20036 (202)624-7102

September 1979

CONSUMER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LIAISON (CEIL)

INTRODUCTION

CEIL is open to consumer educators in the federal government, education, business, consumer groups, and the media. CEIL offers a unique opportunity for coordinating consumer education efforts. The Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration is presently responsible for coordinating this 200-member group. Many members of CEIL also serve as members of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in Business (SOCAP), as members or participants in the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI), and as members of other professional consumer-related groups.

AUDIENCE

Since CEIL is a liaison group, its primary audience is its own members. Through interaction, members are informed of current activities in consumer education.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

Through monthly meetings in Washington, D.C., through its directory, and through occasional special programming, CEIL disseminates information on consumer education activities of the federal government, on nongovernment activities which relate to consumer education, and on the current research and thought in the field.

CEIL does not contain a formal data base. The group is a source of informal contact with members, however.

COST OF USING SERVICE

There is no monetary cost for CEIL information.

CONTACT

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (CES)

INTRODUCTION

A primary purpose of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide informal education, information and technical assistance in agriculture, home economics, and related areas. CES offices are located in counties of the 50 states, in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Administrative offices are located at the Land Grant Universities, the sixteen 1890 Colleges, and Tuskegee Institute. The Federal Extension office is in the Science and Education Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

AUDIENCE

CES is designed to serve the people within each county and state. Generally local councils and/or committees assist Extension staff in identifying problems, needs, priority audiences, and programs. Similar committees and councils function at the state and national levels.

Farmers, ranchers, and community policymakers are primary audiences in agriculture. In home economics the family is the primary audience, with emphasis on education for low and low middle-income adults and youth, young families, the elderly, displaced homemakers, single parents and the handicapped.

CONTENT AND METHOD OF DISSEMINATION

The content of CES education and information is extensive since its purpose is to improve understanding, knowledge, skills, and practices on the farm, in the home, and in the community. Consumer programs and materials cover areas such as food and nutrition, housing, appliances, furnishings, money management, credit, insurance, clothing and textiles, parenting, preventive health practices, gardening, buying skills, wills, etc.

CES uses multiple methods to reach consumers. County staff train numerous community leaders who then train other adults and youth. This method has extended CES outreach over the years. CES also employs and trains low-income aides who then teach others in their communities.

Both state and county CES staff use media (television, radio, news releases, magazine articles, newsletters, public meetings, seminars, conferences, correspondence, exhibits, demonstrations, etc.) to reach consumers. Computer-assisted instruction, offices and programs in shopping centers, and consumer messages accessible by telephone are methods now used in some states.

Publications, developed by state subject matter specialists, are available in county offices for people who live in that area. (There may or may not be a small charge for some of these.)

TRAINING SERVICES

Consumers or leaders of community organizations (who assist other consumers) interested in training should contact the local Extension home economist to learn what is available and/or what might be planned at the county and state levels. Contractual arrangements to train community organization staffs may be needed; if so, the arrangements are made with CES administration at the appropriate level.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Technical assistance services vary depending upon problems significant to that county or state. Information on services available may be obtained by contracting the county CES director.

TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Materials used for training county CES staff, community leaders, and others are generally prepared by Extension faculty at the State Land Grant Universities. They often work with a task force of county staff, business representatives, and others when developing leaders' guides, publications, correspondence courses, self-study kits, etc. Training materials are generally piloted in several counties prior to statewide use.

CONTACT

Consult a local telephone directory to locate the county Cooperative Extension Service within a particular area.

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